AIRCRAFT DISPATCHER

UNIT 2 – ADMINISTRATION

STUDENT WORKBOOK

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Identify aircraft using the designated tactical call signs.

2. Describe the interagency interim flight and duty limitations.

3. Demonstrate the procedures for dispatching a single airtanker or multiple airtankers.

4. List three items to provide during briefings for air resources.

NOTES

I. TERMINOLOGY

A. Knots (kts)

- Standard term used for reference to airspeed

- 1 mile = 1.07 knots

B. VHF Omni-directional Ranges (VORs)

- Direction-magnetic headings

- Used along with latitudes and longitudes

II. TACTICAL AIRCRAFT CALL SIGNS

A. Airtankers

- Nationally-assigned tanker number

- Example: “Tanker 63"

B. Lead Planes

- Nationally-assigned pilot’s lead number

- Example: “Lead 62"

C. Air Attack

- FAA Registration Number

- Abbreviation to the last 2-3 digits is permitted

- Example: “Air Attack 54 Whiskey”

D. Reconnaissance

- FAA Registration Number

- Abbreviation to the last 2-3 digits is permitted

- Example: “Recon 51P”

E. Helicopter

- FAA Registration Number
- Abbreviation to the last 2-3 digits is permitted
- Example: “Helicopter 85Q”

F. Smokejumper

- FAA Registration Number
- Abbreviation to the last 2-3 digits is permitted
- Example: “Jumper 49"

III. NATIONAL RESOURCES

A. Airtankers

B. Infrared Aircraft

C. Large Transport Aircraft

D. Lead Planes

E. Aerial Supervision Modules

F. MAFFS

G. Smokejumper Aircraft

H. Type 1 and 2 Helicopters

IV. INTERAGENCY INTERIM FLIGHT AND DUTY LIMITATIONS

A. 14-hour maximum duty day

B. 8 hours maximum daily flight time

C. 10 hours for point-to-point with 2 pilots

D. Maximum cumulative flight hours of 36 hours in 6 days

E. Minimum of 10 hours uninterrupted time off (rest) between duty periods

F. Days Off

- One day off after 6 days and/or 2 days off within 14 days

- In some cases, relief crews may be assigned to an aircraft whose pilot is scheduled for a day off.

- Airtanker and lead plane pilots have nationally-scheduled days off.

V. SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT

A. Single-engine aircraft (including helicopters) are not to be subjected to IFR conditions.

B. IFR conditions are generally associated with weather and night flight.

C. Start-up and cut-off times

- Missions must be accomplished 30 minutes after sunrise and 30 minutes prior to sunset

- Airtanker bases and dispatch centers shall have sunrise/sunset tables for their locations.

- Sunrise/sunset tables are published using Standard time.

VI. AIRTANKERS

A. Dispatchers should obtain as much information (structure threats, firefighter safety, etc.) as possible when receiving airtanker orders.

B. This information is used to set priorities and possibly to divert airtankers.

Airtanker Diversion

The priorities of airtanker and lead plane use are:

- Human life and property and resource values

- New starts

- Other priorities established by management

C. Airtanker Dispatch Limitations

1. To reduce the hazards to large airtanker operations posed by shadows in the early morning and late evening hours, limitations have been placed on times when airtankers may drop on fires.

2. Start-Up/Cut-Off Times

- Airtankers may drop retardant unsupervised 30 minutes after sunrise and 30 minutes prior to sunset.

- With supervision, airtankers may drop 30 minutes prior to sunrise and 30 after sunset.

3. These limitations apply to the time the aircraft completes its dropping activity, not the time the aircraft is dispatched from its base.

VII. AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

A. Aircraft maintenance may be scheduled or unexpected.

B. Aircraft contracts and FAA regulations require specific maintenance checks based on number of hours flown.

Example: “100 hour”

VIII. BRIEFINGS

A. Agencies are responsible for providing briefings to air resources.

B. Items to include in a briefing:

- Local administrative procedures
- Weather
- Aerial hazards (MTRs, etc.)
- Aircraft in the area
- Flight-following procedures
- Radio frequencies, maps, etc.
- Fueling, water sources, local information

AIRTANKER SCENARIO

You are dispatching an wildland-urban interface fire. The incident commander (IC) wants to hit the hot spots with retardant as early as possible on July 11 due to a high wind forecast for the afternoon. Crews will be on the line at 0600 to support the retardant drops.

DATE AND TIMES:

Date:	July 10, XXXX (date of request)
Time:	2100 (time of request)
Sunrise:	July 11, 0630
Flight time to incident:	10 minutes

RESOURCES AT AIRTANKER BASE:

Lead 62 in Baron N164

Airtankers: 61, 12, and 21
Tanker 21 has one day off (July 11)

Air Attack N1278M

AIRCRAFT AT THE FIRE:

H64W
H56M

REQUESTED RESOURCES FROM THE IC:

- One (1) airtanker with lead plane over the fire at first light
- One (1) airtanker at 0800
- One (1) air attack at 0800
- One (1) airtanker at 0900

HAZARDS:

- High-tension power lines near the south flank of the fire

AIRCRAFT DISPATCHER TASKS:

- Break into small groups.
- Discuss the scenario together–sunrise versus first drop times, earliest on-duty time for pilot, aircraft needs, critical information that must be relayed and to whom.
- Individually complete the appropriate Resource Order(s)–header has been completed.
- List the items that are to be included in a pilot/aircraft resource briefing.

Assume that the pilots have had 10 hours of rest.

INCIDENT/PROJECT ORDER NUMBER

RESOURCE ORDER

AIRCRAFT

INITIAL DATE/TIME: 7/10/00 2100

2. INCIDENT/PROJECT NAME: TROUT

3. INCIDENT /PROJECT ORDER NUMBER: NV-BMD-028

4. OFFICE REFERENCE NUMBER: P47324 N212

5. DESCRIPTIVE LOCATION/RESPONSE AREA: BATTLE MOUNTAIN AIRPORT

6. SEC. 22 | TWN 25N | RNG 45E | Base MDM M

7. MAP REFERENCE

8. INCIDENT BASE/PHONE NUMBER: 775-587-3800

9. JURISDICTION/AGENCY: BLM

10. ORDERING OFFICE: CNC

11. AIRCRAFT INFORMATION

LAT. 40 01 LONG. 116 54

BEARING	DISTANCE	BASE OR OMNI	AIR CONTACT	FREQUENCY	Ground Contact	FREQUENCY	RELOAD BASE	OTHER AIRCRAFT/HAZARDS
163	32	BAM	Trout A/A	120.675	Trout IC	168.225	BAM	H-64W, H-56M
126	67	INA						
215	68	BQU						VR1260, IR264, Austin 1 MOA

12. Request Number	Ordered Date/Time	From / To	Q T Y	RESOURCE REQUESTED	Needed Date/Time	Deliver To	To / From	Time	Agency ID	RESOURCE ASSIGNED	ETD / ETA	RELEASED Date	RELEASED To	Time / ETA

13. ORDER RELAYED Req. No.	Date	Time	To/From	ACTION TAKEN	ORDER RELAYED Req. No.	Date	Time	To/From	ACTION TAKEN

ICS 259-3 (7/87) NFES 2202

NOTES